

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above-identified patent application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's action dated August 20, 2008. In the amendments set forth above, Claims 16, 17 and 19-21 have been amended, and Claims 7, 9-11 and 26-27 have been canceled, without intending to abandon or to dedicate to the public any patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Claims 1-6, 12, 13, 15-17 and 19-25 are now pending. As set forth herein, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 1-6, 12, 13, 15-17 and 19-25 are allowed. In the amendments set forth above, allowed Claims 16, 17 and 19-21 have been amended to ensure consistent use of terms. Moreover, Claims 16, 17 and 19-21 are all dependent claims. Therefore, all of Claims 1-6, 12, 13, 15-17 and 19-25 should continue to be allowed.


Claims 26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,606,834 to Bauer, and Claims 7 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,216,375 to Griffin in view of Bauer. Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with these rejections, Claims 7, 9-11, 26 and 27 have been canceled by this Amendment and Response. Accordingly, all rejected claims have been canceled from the pending application.

In view of the cancellation of the rejected claims and the Examiner's indication that the remaining claims are allowed, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early notification of same is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if doing so would be of assistance.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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